

New York, Jan. 2. The failure of Belcher & Co., at St. Louis, for \$2,000,000 was announced this afternoon. It has also involved the following houses in this city: Foster & Stevens ship owners and bankers, for \$36,000 and Wintrop G. Ray, stock broker, to the extent of \$220,000. Some Boston houses are also said to be affected to the amount of \$1,000,000.

The failure of Wadsworth & Sheldon, bankers, has taken the street by surprise, and caused a depressed and gloomy feeling. We learn that the failure was occasioned by the non-receipts of large amounts which had been received, would have relieved them. They have a very large excess of resources over their liabilities, and they hope the suspension is only temporary.

New York, Dec. 29. The Atlantic, now on her 14th day out from Liverpool, has not yet been signaled by Sandy Hook.

Boston, Dec. 27. CHOLERA AT MESSINA.—A private letter, from Mr. Bohn, the U. S. Consul at Messina, gives a frightful picture of the ravages of the cholera in that city, the population having been reduced by death and emigration, to less than 50,000. No less than 20,000 persons died between the 22d of Aug. and the 10th of September.

The Hon. Cassius M. Clay lectured here this evening before the Mercantile Library Association. A large audience was in attendance to listen to him. Information has been received here that the steamship Wm. Penn, previously reported lost in the Black Sea, was safe at Constantinople on Nov. 18.

The weather is extremely mild, and it has been raining all day. The thermometer ranges at 45 deg.

New York, Dec. 30. INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT BILL.—A Washington dispatch says the Senate Committee is preparing an internal improvement bill, leaving the expenditures with the Secretary of War as to the places and amounts. The bill appropriates \$100,000 to each of the northern Lakes, and about the usual amount to the principal works on the Atlantic coast and the Western rivers.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME.—It is understood that a meeting of the Fusion leaders has been held in Detroit to consider the subjects to be presented to the Legislature. Since the meeting, the Inquirer, the organ of the Fusionists, give place to the following programme of legislative action, endorsing them as "topics of promineney."

A prohibitory Liquor Law. A General Banking Law. A General Rail Road Law. A re-instatement of the death penalty for murder.

The apportionment of the State into Representative and Senatorial districts. The disposition of the swamp-lands, and further and more detailed and guarded particulars relating to the time and also to the manner of sale.

Circumstantial and incidental amendments to existing laws. A bill authorizing the Water Commissioners of Detroit to negotiate a further loan of \$250,000.

A bill authorizing the erection of a work-house and an almshouse in the city of Detroit. Certain amendments to the existing charter of the city of Detroit.

An amendment to the charter of the Detroit & Port Huron Railroad.

THE TWO SEXES.—There is much truth in the following, which we copy from the Syracuse Standard: When a raking youth goes astray, friends gather round in order to restore him to the paths of virtue. Gentleness and kindness are lavished upon him to win him back to innocence and peace. No one would suspect that he had ever sinned.

But when a poor, confiding girl is betrayed, she receives the brand of society, and is henceforth driven from the ways of virtue. The betrayer is honored, respected and esteemed; but the ruined, heart-broken victim knows there is no peace for her this side of the grave. Society has no voice of forgiveness.

These are earthly moralities unknown to heaven. There is a deep wrong in them, and fearful are the consequences.

Among the recent applications for Patents at the U. S. Patent Office, there is one for the employment of a new material for the manufacture of printing and writing paper, articles in so great demand at the present time, both in this country and in England. The supply of the usual raw material has been found inadequate to fill the orders for paper. The raw material is the pith and fibre of the sugar cane. This is said to combine the desired qualities of strength, toughness, and of being very white, while the supply is inexhaustible, and the article very cheap.

The Chicago Tribune says that officers arrived in that city on Friday evening, having in their custody the person who, it will be remembered, robbed the money bag of Adams' Express Company of some \$50,000 a short time since at Cincinnati. They had arrested him somewhere in Iowa, and were taking him back to Cincinnati. He had confessed to the robbery and had told his captors that on reaching Cincinnati he would give them information which would lead to the recovery of nearly all the money.

DEATH OF A VETERAN.—Conrad Bush, of Pompey, Onondaga county, N. Y., died at his residence on the 21st inst., at the advanced age of 102. Mr. B. served in the American army throughout the war of the revolution, as we learn from the Syracuse Standard, and was personally acquainted with Washington and many other leading spirits of the revolutionary period. At the time of his death he resided on lands which he received from government for services rendered his country. [Det. Inquirer.]

ANOTHER DEFAULTER.—The Superintendent of the Glendon mills in Charleston, Mass., has run away with \$250,000. A letter was received from him, stating that he was a defaulter in the sum of \$250,000, and that it would be useless to pursue him, as he was determined not to be taken alive.

THE GRAND RIVER TIMES.

GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN: WEDNESDAY EVENING, JAN. 10, 1855.

The steamer Empire, after having been frozen in Grand River, midway between this place and Grand Rapids, for a month past, arrived at her dock here, on the 7th inst., and left the same day in company with the Algoma for Grand Rapids, each boat carrying a full load of freight. It is something quite unusual for the river to be sufficiently clear of ice to permit boats to run at this time of year; particularly after having been frozen solid enough to allow teams to cross on the ice. The warm weather of the past two weeks has effectually broken up the ice and rendered the river again navigable.

DROWNED.—A young man named Gilbert Braier, nephew of Mr. Peter Labelle, and recently from Montreal, Canada East, was accidentally drowned, on the 8th inst., while assisting in rowing a scow employed in ferrying teams across the river, between Mill Point and this village. The particulars have not as yet reached us.

"Mine host," of the "Washington," with his usual magnificence, is preparing a most sumptuous entertainment for the evening of the 17th inst., where those who love "To trip it as they go On the light fantastic toe," will find every arrangement on a magnificent scale, and such as will suit the most fastidious. It will doubtless be the most brilliant assembly that has ever taken place in this section of country.

The Legislature of our State commenced its biennial session on Wednesday, the 3d inst. We hope to be enabled to furnish our readers with the Governor's message next week. A change in the administration of State affairs will cause the message to be perused with much interest.

The adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Ottawa county, convened at this place, on Monday, the 1st inst. A statement of the proceedings will be found in another part of our paper.

We are indebted to Hon. LEWIS CASS for the Patent Office Report, for 1853, containing many interesting statistics, in relation to agricultural products, fruits, climatology, &c. Should any desire a perusal, it may be seen at our office.

We are indebted to Mr. J. W. COOK, of this village, for a bottle of superior writing ink, of his own manufacture. It possesses the peculiar advantage of being unaffected by the action of chemicals usually employed in erasing and altering signatures, &c.

We have no Congressional news of importance to lay before our reader this week, except a synopsis of the President's reasons for vetoing the River and Harbor bill, and an important bill to prevent the emigration of Paupers and Criminals, which are herewith inserted:

A message was received from the President giving his reasons for vetoing the River and Harbor bill. Owing to the late day at which the bill was passed, it became necessary for him to state his objections, announcing at the same time a purpose to resume the subject for a more deliberate discussion at the present session of Congress. He concedes that the two Houses of Congress are entitled to an expression of the considerations which induced him to dissent from their conclusions. No such expression as internal improvement is found in the constitution, and it has not sufficient meaning to be of any value. He proceeded to examine the various clauses in that instrument under which power for a system of internal improvements is claimed, and comes to the conclusion that there is no such specific power for such works, and no provision broad enough to cover them. Congress can only construct such works as may be necessary to carry out specific plans of improvement for navigability of rivers or harbors, as may be necessary for military or naval purposes. The matter is a subject for legislative discretion. The message is a long one, and the President concludes by urging the power of confirming appropriations by the general government to works necessary to be constructed from its undoubted power, and of leaving all others to individual enterprise or to the respective States, to be provided for out of their resources, or by a recurrence to the provisions of the constitution which authorize, with consent of Congress, the improvement of harbors.

Mr. Phillips would move that the message be laid on the table and it be referred to the committee of the whole, and it was so referred.

We see it stated that the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives have prepared, and will soon report, a very important bill on the subject of alien paupers and criminals. Under the provisions of this bill no foreign passengers shall hereafter be admitted into a port of the United States unless he shall have the certificate of the American Consul of the place from which he comes, that he has not, for one year previous to his departure, been an inmate of a jail or work-house, and that he has not, for four years previously, been convicted of any criminal offence except such as are designated political crimes. If any captain shall bring such persons without the required certificates, he shall be liable to fine and imprisonment. The vessel in which such persons arrive shall be subject to forfeiture. The introduction of a bill like this will, no doubt, give rise to a violent opposition, but circumstances have indicated a necessity for it which will be likely to give it great strength both in and out of Congress.

The new Government Custom House and Post Office at Buffalo, has been located at the corner of Seneca and Washington streets.

Table with 3 columns: Date, Description, Amount. Includes entries for Nov. 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 1855.

January 1st 1855, 12,592 96. The above account was examined and adjusted by committee on finance. HENRY PENNOYER, JAS. M. SMITH, H. D. POST, Com.

Statement of accounts allowed at the January session of the Board of Supervisors, 1855.

Table with 3 columns: Name, Amount allowed, Amount paid. Lists names like G. Reed, A. H. Vredenburg, U. Chubb, A. W. Taylor, Daniel Bennett, S. L. Lowing, H. D. Post, James Skeels, G. W. Walton, Henry Pennoyer, H. C. Durphy, J. M. Smith, Wm. M. Ferry, Jr., P. Pendergrass, P. Lawton, J. D. Stebbins, A. H. Van Hees, G. G. Durfee, Benj. Lillie, Wm. N. Angel, M. B. Hopkins, Henry Griffin, H. G. Post, George Parks, Wolf certificate, G. G. Durfee, C. B. Albee, Duryee & Forsyth, George Parks, G. Reed, A. H. Vredenburg, C. W. Rose, S. L. Lowing, H. D. Post, James Skeels, Henry Pennoyer, Simeon Hazleton, J. M. Smith, Wm. M. Ferry, Jr., Charles Alford, G. W. Woodward, J. G. Van Hees, J. W. Barnes & Co., H. G. Post, H. Doesburg, A. H. Vredenburg, C. W. Rose, S. L. Lowing, H. D. Post, James Skeels, Henry Pennoyer, Simeon Hazleton, J. M. Smith, Wm. M. Ferry, Jr., Charles Alford, G. W. Woodward, J. G. Van Hees, G. Reed, R. C. Marsh, County poor order, Jan den Harden, Elias Brown.

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.—It is stated in letters from Washington, that Col. Benton says he has the Pacific Railroad in his pocket; that is to say, he has received the names of twenty-three of the most eminent capitalists in the country, to be put into a bill, as the names of members of a Company to whom Congress shall grant simply the absolute right of way through the public lands for a railroad to the Pacific.—These names were furnished him by Wm. F. Weld, the "Railroad King" of N. England. Every man on the list is a millionaire, and although some of them have not been consulted in the matter, Mr. Weld guarantees that all of them will consent to take part in the enterprise. The following is the list:

Hon. Abbot Lawrence, Wm. Sturgis, Robert C. Winthrop, Samuel Hooper, Wm. Appleton, John M. Forbes, John E. Thayer, David A. Neal, H. H. Hunnewell, Wm. F. Weld, Wm. Amory, all of Boston; John Carter Brown, of Providence, R. I.; Wm. R. Rodman, of New Bedford, Mass.; E. Corning, of Albany, N. Y.; George Griswold, T. W. Perkins, Watts Sherman, R. H. Winslow, Edwin C. Litchfield, Geo. Bancroft, Thos. Tileston, John A. Stevens, R. B. Minors, all of N. York.

Col. Benton proposes to introduce a bill giving these gentlemen the right of way for the road, leaving them to select the route, and giving no aid whatever from the Government, nor any promise of aid. He thinks he will get his bill thro', and that the Company will go on with the work at once.

THE MORMONS.—The Free Press says: The appointment of Col. Steptoe, of the U. S. Army, as Gov. of Utah, in place of Brigham Young, gives rise to speculations as to the consequences which may ensue. It is reported of Young that he has said he would be Governor until God Almighty should say, "Brigham, you needn't be Governor any longer." Should he persevere in this determination, and should the Lord not signify to him that his services are no longer wanted, a collision must ensue between the Mormons and the Government authorities—that is if Young can command the support of the Mormons in such an emergency.

Col. Steptoe is at this time at Salt Lake City, in command of a detachment of United States troops. We shall wait anxiously for advices of his assumption of the duties of Gov. of the Territory.

Allendale, G. Reed; Blendon, A. H. Vredenburg; Crockery, Rose; Georgetown, Lowing; Holland, Post; Jamestown, Skeels; Ottawa, Pennoyer; Polkton, Hazleton; Ravenna, Smith; Spring Lake, Ferry; Tallmadge, Alford; Wright, Woodward; Zeeland, Van Hees.

Mr. Smith presented a petition numerous signed by the inhabitants of the county, asking for a county road, from Zeeland thro' Blendon, Allendale, Polkton and Ravenna.

On motion, The said petition was received.

On motion, The following bill was then introduced:

Be it enacted, by the Board of Supervisors of the county of Ottawa, that a road be established from Zeeland to Ravenna, in the county of Ottawa, according to the field notes or survey accompanying a petition for the same, which are hereto attached as a part of this act, and that the highway commissioners in the towns thro' which it passes, be requested to record the same in their respective towns according to the statute provided for the same; provided nothing in this act shall be so construed as to subject the county to any expense for the same—

Which after considerable discussion was lost by the following vote:

Yeas.—Messrs. Post, Hazleton, Smith, and Van Hees—4.

Nays.—Messrs. Vredenburg, Rose, Pennoyer, Ferry, Alford, and Woodward—6.

On motion of Mr. Alford, Steven Hedges was appointed a Superintendent of County poor, in place of E. Angel who failed to qualify.

Mr. Ferry moved a re-consideration of the vote on the question, of allowing Supervisors to receive their pay from the county, for taking assessment, and making out tax rolls, instead of being paid by the towns, and after considerable discussion lost, as follows:

Yeas.—Messrs. Vredenburg, Post, Hazleton, Ferry and Alford—5.

Nays.—Messrs. Rose, Pennoyer, Woodward, Smith and Van Hees—5.

The proposition for removing County seat was called up, but on account of their being so few of the members present it was

On motion, Laid over until next meeting of the board.

Mr. Lowing from Committee on rooms report that Mr. Griffin will rent the upper part of his store for \$75 per year, which report was accepted and the Clerk was authorized to arrange the business with said Griffin.

The Committee appointed to settle with the County Treasurer presented their report which was accepted, and

On motion, It was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Post, The board adjourned sine die.

H. PENNOYER, Chairman. TIMOTHY FLETCHER, County Clerk.

Treasurer of Ottawa county in Acc't with Ottawa county Dr.

Table with 3 columns: Date, Description, Amount. Includes entries for 1854, Jan. 2d, Feb. 8th, Sept. 2d, Nov. 9, 1855, Jan. 1st.

Balance due, 2,850 66. The above account examined and adjusted by Committee on finance.

HENRY PENNOYER, JAS. M. SMITH, H. D. POST, Com.

Treasurer of Ottawa County in Acc't with Ottawa County Cr.

Table with 3 columns: Date, Description, Amount. Includes entries for Feb. 3d, March 1, April, May 1, Nov. 15, 1854.